

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 L-03 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

NSC-10 RSR-01 /089 W

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R 162028Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 562

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS PINT OTRA VE

SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC VOTING MACHINES

REF: STATE 137942 AND 138079

1. IN ACCORDANCE PARA 4 STATE 137942 DCM CONTACTED MCCUNE BY PHONE NIGHT OF JULY 13. AS OUTLINED PARA 3 SAME TELEGRAM, FURTHER CONTACT ESTABLISHED SUNDAY AND EMBOFFS MET THIS MORNING (JLY 16) WITH MCCUNE WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEROSA, ALSO VISITING FROM U.S., REPRESENTING INTERESTS OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNDERWRITERS.

2. MCCUNE DISCUSSED PRESENT STATUS OF AUTOMATIC VOTING MACHINES PROBLEM, DECISION OF COMPANY TO ENGAGE VENEZUELAN COUNEL, AND HIS OWN APPREHENSION OVER NEXT MOVES OF GOV PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PEREMPTORY SUMMONS QUOTED IN STATE 138079. HE INDICATED SOME LOCAL LAW FIRMS UNWILLING TOUCH CASE AND ONE CONSIDERING HANDLING SAME FOR ONE MILLION BOLIVAR FEE PLUS RIGHT TO ENGAGE STILL ANOTHER LAWYER AT AVM EXPENSE.

3. WITH AVM SEEKING RECLAIM FROM GOV TEN MILLION DOLLARS INVESTED IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INITIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCTION, AND WITH GOV SEEKING RECOVER FROM AMV \$2.8

MILLION ALREADY ADVANCED UNDER CONTRACT, IMPASSE WOULD SEEM IN PROSPECT. SITUATION COMPLICATED HOWEVER BY APPARENT DISPOSITION OF GOV ADOPT VERY STRONG LINE AND IN ABSENCE OF \$2.8 MILLION REFUND TO MOVE AGAINST AND ATTACH ASSETS OF LOCAL BONDING COMPANY REPRESENTING AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNDERWRITERS.

4. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED WITH MCCUNE AND DEROSA PRESENT STATUS OF CASE IN LIGHT OF KNOWN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ANTECEDENTS. PROVIDED MCCUNE WITH UPDATED LIST OF REPUTABLE LOCAL ATTORNEYS AND SUGGESTED CERTAIN AVENUES OF APPROACH. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION EMBOFFS SOUGHT TO RPOVIDE SYMPATHETIC, HELPFUL AUDIENCE AND ADVICE TO AMERICAN FIRM WITH SERIOUS PROBLEM WHILE AT SAME TIME HEWING CLOSELY TO LINE OF PROCEDURE AND POLITICAL NON-INVOLVEMENT STIPULATED BY AMBASSADOR IN PARA 4, CARACAS 4211.

5. MCCUNE AND DEROSA WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED AS TO STATUS AND PROGRESS THEIR LOCAL CONVERSATIONS.
MCCLINTOCK

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